

Message

From: LOWE, DEBBIE [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=ABC66EEA4C104423BF408F07AF027E0A-DLOWE]
Sent: 2/8/2016 3:31:14 PM
To: Heller, Zoe [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cff1a761beb048368f4d8bc4830824d6-ZHELLER]
Subject: FW: EJ Update for the R9 EJ Network
Attachments: EJ@Work eNewsletter: January 2016 Edition; EPA Citizen Science Community of Practice February meeting

From: Reyes, Deldi
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 5:44 PM
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Subject: EJ Update for the R9 EJ Network

INTERNAL, Please Do Not Release

Dear EJ Network Members,

Here are some items that may be of interest—recent events and upcoming dates to keep in mind. Also, please see the attached Jan 20 edition of OEJ’s national **internal** EJ newsletter, EJ@Work, which includes a link to the Better Watts Initiative, further detailed below, and links to a recent and historic Title VI Federal Highway Administration settlement in Texas.

This one’s kind of long, so feel free to jump to items of interest using the hyperlinked table of contents . . .

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In the Region . . .

Region 9’s FY15 EJ Action Plan – Progress Report Underway

Our goal is to release a public version describing our collective progress under the [R9 EJ Action Plan](#) no later than March 31, 2016. Division Deputies have been provided with templates and a schedule. I’ve asked for each Division to let me know who I can coordinate with to complete the report. We will publish the final report on our webpage and ask Jared if he would like to transmit the link with a note to the participants of the 2014 EJ Teach In. Thanks Omer, for serving as our LAND Division rep, and to Clancy and Nova for SFD!

OEJ’s TASC Contract Supports Comité Cívico Del Valle with IVAN Recommendations

(Do You Represent R9 on an EJ Task Force? Check out this item)

As part of our *Making a Visible Difference in Communities* focus on Imperial County, Priyanka and I worked with Luis Olmedo of Comité Cívico del Valle to help him get feedback from agency leaders about performance measures for the IVAN model. (IVAN stands for Identifying Violations Affecting Neighborhoods.) Based on Luis’ guidance, our TASC (technical assistance services for communities) contractor conducted focused interviews of 16 senior state and local agency leaders, including EPA, to identify recommendations aimed at refining and improving the [IVAN model](#). This project would not have happened without the TASC contract resource from OEJ, which allowed us to bring in SKEO Solutions, whose

expertise includes focused interviewing. Read the final [report](#) to see what local and state agency leaders think of IVAN.

A second part of this project focused on providing advice to Comit  Civico about how best to visualize the PM10 and PM2.5 air monitoring data that will be acquired through a robust network of 40 Dylos monitors stationed throughout Imperial County. The Public Health Institute and University of Washington are partnering with community members to carry out this project, which is funded by NIEHS. Air Division staff participate on the project's Technical Advisory Committee. Janet McCabe, EPA's Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation visited Imperial County last week and was impressed with the scale and quality of this monitoring project, as well as the level of community involvement!

OEJ's TASC Contract Used to Help Stop Illegal Dumping in Fresno County

Triggered by the concerns of neighbors bordering a block size illegal solid waste dump in unincorporated Fresno County within City of Fresno limits, EPA worked to find resources under the OEJ TASC contract to help address the issue by working with members of the Fresno Environmental Reporting Network (FERN). EPA's interest spurred action on the part of local agencies to address the dump while TASC resources were used to develop educational materials to address the widespread issue of illegal dumping of solid (and sometimes hazardous) wastes in Fresno, California. The materials developed include a research memo and two bilingual education documents. A big thanks to Steve Wall in the LAND Division for his review and input on early drafts. These materials provide tools for the community to employ for prevention of illegal dumping; local options and resources for proposed waste disposal; and describe local processes and opportunities for community members to report and track cases of illegal dumping, abandoned structures and pollution. You can find the materials here: [FERN Educational Materials](#)

Over a Hundred Participants at the Kick-off of the Better Watts Initiative in Los Angeles on January 29th

The Better Watts Initiative is a joint environmental justice collaboration between the Watts Labor Community Action Committee, LA Human Rights to Housing Collective, Cal State University Dominguez Hills, Black Community Health Task Force, and Physicians for Social Responsibility-LA. Deldi and Romie were two of about twenty government or elected officials in attendance, including Arsenio Mataka of CalEPA, Ana Mascarenas and Roger Kintz of DTSC and Sam Unger of the State Water Board. The purpose of the Initiative is to build momentum for rebuilding the environmental health of Watts. With over 41,000 residents in a 2.12 square mile neighborhood, Watts is both one of the densest communities in the City of Los Angeles and one of the youngest, with 28% of Watts residents aged 10 years or under and about half age 17 or younger. In an EJSCREEN review of this community, the potential for EJ concerns is very high with at least 11 of the 12 EJ indexes ranked at the 80th percentile or greater. Deldi and Romie will be working with representatives of the Region's EJ Network to recruit ongoing participation in this initiative based on issues identified.

Diane Takvorian, EHC Executive Director Named to California Air Resources Board

Many of us in Region 9 have had the opportunity to work with Diane Takvorian, the Executive Director of the [Environmental Health Coalition](#). Diane has a long history as a tireless advocate on behalf of overburdened communities. Yesterday, California Assembly Speaker Toni G. Atkins announced that Diane is one of two additional members of the California ARB. The current 12-member board is appointed by the governor, and as a result of AB1288, two additional members representing disadvantaged communities are to be selected by legislative leaders. Check out EHC's [press release](#) for more details.

Greenaction Protest of Lennar and EPA on January 28th

Lily Lee and Jackie Lane, Superfund Division, successfully organized the Region's preparation for a nonviolent and peaceful protest led by Greenaction and other organizations against Lennar and EPA, on January

28th. Greenaction led a group of 35-40 people, some carrying a large banner and signs and distributing handouts expressing concerns about toxic exposure, gentrification, and Lennar's influence on City officials. The protest began at Lennar's sales office at the corner of Howard and Hawthorne. Jared and Enrique met the protesters at Lennar's sales office and then walked together to our office. Bradley Angel, Executive Director of Greenaction, announced demands such as the need for a new environmental review of the clean-up plan for the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, including a cumulative risk assessment; a technical meeting to talk through concerns with EPA, Navy, and DTSC; a letter from EPA to Lennar that full disclosure of the risks is important; and a request for "un-refutable proof" that no waste will ever get out and cause health impacts. Jared thanked the group for their interest and involvement in environmental matters and clarified the EPA and Navy role in the Shipyard cleanup.

Jan 20th Public Meeting on Civil Rights

Many thanks to Richard Grow, George Randell, Leslie Owyang-Chin and Andrea Manion for all their work in supporting the Jan 20th public meeting we were asked by the Office of Civil Rights to organize in Oakland last month. All total, we had 24 attendees, 12 of whom commented on OCR's proposed revisions to the Agency's non-discrimination regulations. Of note, we had 8 representatives from five state or local agencies: the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, the CA Department of Toxics Substances Control, the CA State Water Resources Control Board and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. Alexis Strauss, and senior representatives from the Office of Civil Rights and the Department of Justice presented and the session was chaired by Luseni Pieh, Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs & Strategic Initiatives in the Office of the Administrator.

Upcoming Events

Interested in Citizen Science? Webinar on February 24th

Send an email to Alison Parker and ask to be added to EPA's Community of Practice focused on citizen science. Alison is organizing a series of webinars focusing on EPA efforts using citizen science and crowdsourcing approaches that kicks off on February 24th with a presentation by Patricia Sheridan and Tim Barzyk on the ORD/Region 2 Community Air Monitoring Collaboration. Invite is attached but reach out to Alison if you want her to add you to her list. Also check out this [blog post](#) on citizen science and environmental justice by Region 10 ORISE participant Laura Stewart.

Moving Forward Network Meeting with RA Set for Feb 25

Francisco Donez is coordinating the response to a recent request from The Moving Forward Network to meet with the RA about recommendations for EPA to take to address goods movement impacts. The meeting is set for February 29th.

NEJAC Public Teleconference Meeting – Focus on EPA's Draft EJ Primer Framework—A Resource for Port Facilities, Feb 25

3 – 5 pm ET and public comment from 4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET

The discussion will focus on EPA's Draft Environmental Justice Primer Framework. This action-oriented educational and training tool is being designed as a resource for port facilities of the perspectives, priorities, and challenges often unique to overburdened, vulnerable communities. The resource materials and process steps are designed to promote successful engagement with nearby communities in decision-making about environmental health and related concerns associated with port-related activities.

Pre-registration by Feb 19 is required.

NEJAC Public Face-to-Face Meeting in Gulfport, Mississippi (NOTE: info re participation via conference call TBD)

March 16 -17, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Central Time

Community Meeting: March 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. (Location TBD) / **Public Comment:** March 16, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Central Time

The discussion will focus on several topics including, but not limited to: an update on recovery efforts; resources and technical assistance available to communities with environmental justice concerns; and climate change concerns of coastal communities

Pre-registration by Mar 11 is required.

Public Interest Environmental Law Conference: A Legacy Worth Leaving, Mar 3-6

Eugene, Oregon

DRA Alexis Strauss will speak on a panel entitled, “*52 Years and Counting: Can Title VI of the Civil Rights Act be Effective in the Struggle to Achieve Environmental Justice?*” Fellow panelists include Kelly Haragan, Director of University of Texas School of Law Environmental Clinic, on Corpus Christi’s Harbor Bridge—a Title VI Success Story; Erin Gaines, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid Attorney, and Equal Justice Works Fellow, on the Harbor Bridge Title VI complaint process and resolution; and Marianne Engelman Lado, Senior Staff Attorney, Earthjustice, on the value of Title VI to address racial justice in the environmental context and ongoing efforts to reform EPA’s Title VI program. Alexis, who serves as the Region’s Deputy Civil Rights Officer, will speak on EPA’s civil rights compliance and current actions to improve our Title VI response process. EPA Region 9 is currently lead region for civil rights so this opportunity is timely.

Public Lab “Barn raising” in Val Verde This Summer

The Public Laboratory for Open Technology and Science ([Public Lab](#)) is hosting a barn raising early this summer in Val Verde in Los Angeles County. The barn raising event is Public Lab’s signature forum for its regular gatherings of citizen scientists and allies. Learn more about Public Lab from the [press release](#) they issued after being recognized by the White House.

2016 Environmental Measurement Symposium: Technology Innovation, Citizen Science: What’s Next?

August 8 – 12 in Orange County, CA

This session is the joint meeting of the [National Environmental Monitoring Conference](#) (the only measurement conference sponsored by EPA) and the [Forum on Laboratory Accreditation](#). Highlights include:

- A special half-day general session focused on the conference theme;
- Over 160 oral and poster presentations on a variety of cutting-edge environmental monitoring issues;
- Meetings of TNI Committees to further TNI efforts on environmental laboratory accreditation, proficiency testing, and accreditation of field sampling and measurement organizations;
- An exhibit program showcasing the latest innovations in environmental monitoring;
- A technology showcase to see some of the latest sensors and new development yet to hit the market;
- Five special keynote presentations on topics of general interest; and
- An open meeting of US Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board

If you’d like to be removed from this list, just drop me a line.

Finally, you’ll note I’m fond of hyperlinks, including those that go to outside organizations, many of them non-profit. Should you be interested, you can follow up and learn what these organizations say in their own words.

You may notice a “donate” tab on these links.

Please note that I am not endorsing these groups, nor am I encouraging anyone to donate to them.

